

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Town owned property up for sale. The Town is preparing to sell a 1.8 acre vacant property on Story Hill Lane (APN 182-52-009) at the west side of the Page Mill Road Intersection. The property is zoned for single-family residential use and allows for a maximum 5,000 square foot house and 7,500 square feet of development area. The property is within the boundaries of the Palo Alto School District and is served by the Town sanitary sewer system. The proceeds from the sale of this property will be used by the City Council to invest in one or more new recreational facilities. If you have any questions about the sale of this property please contact the City Manager's Office at 650-941-7222 x224.



City Manager Carl Cahill

Spotlight on Town Volunteers: The Emergency Communications Committee (ECC)

Disasters such as wildfires, storm, earthquake and major accidents can place severe demands on public safety manpower and bring down conventional communication systems including telephones, public safety radios, fax and Internet communications.

To facilitate emergency communications during times of disaster, the Town established the Emergency Communications Committee to become the Town's "eyes and ears" in such events. The ECC consists of 18 amateur radio (ham) operator/ members who are capable of establishing a Town wide emergency radio communications network. This "net" is largely invulnerable to the system overloading that will render cell phones useless in the event of a major disaster.

In the event of an emergency or disaster, Certain ECC members would report to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC is located in the Heritage House at the Town Hall Center and is the Town's emergency communications hub. Radio equipment that is housed at the EOC enables the net controller to coordinate communications with multiple ham radio operators who are dispatched where needed in the field. Disaster information can then be relayed to the County Emergency Operations Center and the State Office of Emergency Services.

Would you like to become a member of the Town's Emergency Communications Committee? This volunteer service opportunity does require a valid amateur radio operator's license. The Town will gladly assist any Committee member candidate in obtaining the requisite amateur radio license. Portable amateur radio equipment is also supplied by the Town to active members of the ECC.

Please call Steve Garcia, Public Safety Officer, at (650) 941-7222 x242 for more information about the Town's Emergency Communications Committee.

— *Carl Cahill, City Manager*
KG6MOD

FIRE SAFETY

Defensible Space to Save Your Home

With summer fast approaching it is time to start thinking about fire safety in and around your home. The Los Altos Hills County Fire District recommends that you clear all grass, brush and trees limbs 30 feet from around your home. The Fire Department calls this "Defensible Space." The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is now requiring 100 feet of "Defensible Space" in high fire hazard areas. Proper clearances around your home will dramatically increase the chance of your house surviving a wildfire. This defensible space also provides for firefighter safety when protecting homes during a wildland fire.



Homeowner's responsibility is the key to fire safety whether it is outside the Home, or inside the Home. Here are some tips to help make homes fire safe:

- Post visible address numbers out on the street in front of your home.
- Remove all flammable vegetation 30 feet from all structures.
- In an additional 70 feet, create a reduced fuel zone by spacing trees and plants from each other.
- Clear all needles and leaves from roofs, eaves and rain gutters.
- Trim branches 6 feet from the ground.
- Remove branches 10 feet from all chimneys.
- Use trimming, mowing and power equipment before 10 a.m. and after 6 a.m., not in the heat of the day
- Landscape with fire resistance plants.

Proper clearance to 100 feet dramatically increases the chance of your house surviving a wildfire.

Outside, wildland fire safety begins with creating and maintaining clearance around your home; cut weeds and dry grass before 10 a.m. when the humidity is higher and the temperature is cooler to reduce the chance of fire. Inside, basic fire safety begins with checking the battery in your smoke detector; practicing fire drills with your family; and keeping working fire extinguishers available. In California it is not a question of if a wildfire is going to occur, but more of a question of when. This is why it is so important California residents in the Wildland Urban Interface create a Defensible Space around their homes.

Best of Luck — Sarah Ragsdale



Administrative Services Director Sarah Ragsdale resigned from employment with the Town on May 25th. Sarah has accepted employment with the City of Ceres as their Administrative Services Director. Sarah chose to relocate to the Central Valley for family reasons. For nearly 6 years Sarah has faithfully prepared award winning balanced budgets for the Town. This essential task was in addition to her many other responsibilities that she successfully executed.

We wish Sarah all peace and joy in her new home.